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Senate

The Senate met at 9 a.m., and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest chaplain, Rev. Haldon Arnold, Church of Christ, Springfield, VA. We are glad to you have with us.

PRAYER

The Reverend Haldon Arnold of the Church of Christ, Springfield, VA, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

Eternal Father, as these men and women meet today in this historic Chamber to deliberate upon those matters which affect us all, may they be so inclined as to seek Your wisdom and counsel, to be filled with Your spirit that the Nation may be at peace and have a more tranquil life.

We thank You, Lord, for our great country, for its Government, for those who serve in the Congress, our courts, and the White House. May they all labor that our country may be stronger, more able to help the weak, more nearly a government of the people, by and for the people, also.

Father, please continue to be patient with us that we may not self-destruct. Continue to forgive us our mistakes, and our sins, but above all, continue to love us.

And now abides faith, hope, and love, but may all of us know that the greatest of these is love, and I pray through Christ. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able majority leader, Senator LOTT, is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. Good morning, Mr. President.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, this morning, under the provisions of rule XXII of the Senate, a live quorum will begin at 10 a.m. Once a quorum is established, there will be a 15-minute roll-call vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 1936, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. All Senators should be reminded this vote will occur shortly after 10 a.m. this morning, so they need to be prepared to come to the Chamber. If cloture is invoked on the motion to proceed to the nuclear waste bill, it is my hope we may be able to proceed immediately to the consideration of this important matter in some reasonable and understandable way. If cloture is not invoked, there will be another cloture vote this morning on the Department of Defense appropriations bill.

Again, I urge all Senators to cooperate to enable the Senate to move forward on a number of these items. There are a number of appropriations bills now—I think four—that are available. I hope we will be able to complete those in the coming days.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time between now and 10 a.m. be equally divided.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THOMAS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. I yield the floor, Mr. President.

NUCLEAR WASTE POLICY ACT OF 1996—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the pending business.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A motion to proceed to the bill (S. 1936) to amend the Nuclear Policy Act of 1982.

The Senate resumed consideration of the motion to proceed.

Mr. MURKOWSKI addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, it is my understanding that we have 1 hour equally divided prior to the cloture vote on the motion to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I thank the Chair. I am going to make a short statement and then reserve the remainder of my time to accommodate Senator CRAIG and other Senators.

First of all, the bill we have before us, S. 1936, is really an important bill that does two significant things. First, it keeps a promise, a promise that was made to the taxpayers of this country who have contributed about \$12 billion currently to the nuclear waste fund, but, unfortunately, we have nothing to show for it at this time. It also takes important steps to a safer future.

Today, high-level nuclear waste and high-radioactivity-used-type nuclear fuel is accumulating in this country at over 40 sites in 41 States, including waste stored at the Department of Energy weapons facilities, stored, Mr. President, in populated areas, near our neighborhoods, near our schools, on the shores of our lakes and rivers, and in the backyards of constituents, young and old, all across this land.

Later on, I am going to have some charts that I want to show my colleagues so that we can specifically address where this nuclear fuel is stored on both the east and the west coasts, where most Americans live. It may be Yorktown, near your neighborhood and near mine. Unfortunately, spent fuel is being stored in pools that were not designed for long-term storage.

Some of this fuel is already 30 years old. That is not to say it is not safe. It simply was not designed for long-term or semipermanent storage. Each year that goes by, our ability to continue storage of this used fuel in each of these sites in a safe and responsible

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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